

opc Bulletin

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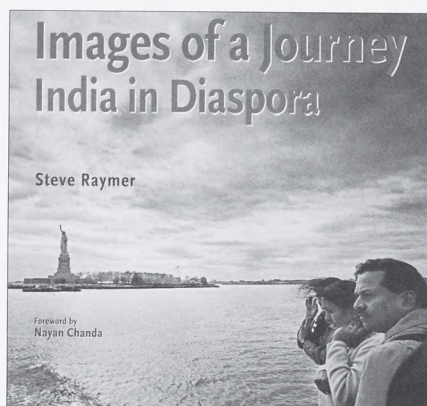
New Book Chronicles Global Indian Migration

OPC EVENT PREVIEW / NOV. 7

by Sonya K. Fry

OPC member Steve Raymer is a former *National Geographic* staff photographer and is currently Associate Professor at the Indiana University School of Journalism. He has produced a stunning photo essay book on the Indian Diaspora titled "Images of a Journey" (Indiana University Press). This photo book documents the struggles of Indian immigrants, beginning in the 19th century with the British Empire's need for inexpensive labor and ending in Bangalore, the high-technology capital of a resurgent India. Indians live in all seven continents, including Antarctica – some 25 million people of Indian origin now live in over 100 countries.

Raymer takes us to sugar plantations in Trinidad, the hardscrabble neighborhoods of England, as well as inside some of the top hospitals and Fortune 500 companies in the U.S. Starting in 2003 Raymer and his camera photographed 60,000 Indian Jews living in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, cabdrivers in Dubai, and spice sellers in Durban (the Curry Capital of Africa) South Africa. Some of his more well-known subjects include filmmaker Mira Nair (director of *The Namesake* which the OPC screened in February), OPC member and editor of *Newsweek International* Fareed Zakaria, and Sanjay Gupta of CNN.



Another story Raymer found was the continued migration of Indians from one country to another. "The further I got into the book project, the journalism got

better, because there was a different story to tell in different parts of the world. There may be as many Indians on the move from one country to another, looking for acceptance of a better life, than there are actually Indian emigrants leaving India and going abroad today."

There is also a "Reverse Diaspora" in which successful Indians return to places such as Delhi and especially Bangalore, a city being transformed into an Indian Silicon Valley.

The program will be in the format of a conversation with Nayan Chanda, a foreign correspondent and author, who is editor of *YaleGlobal Online* magazine at the Yale Center for the Study of

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Sims to Moderate Panel on Latin America

OPC EVENT PREVIEW / NOV. 12

by Jane Ciabattari

Latin America is one of the most under covered areas on the globe. Calvin Sims, former *New York Times* correspondent based in Buenos Aires, a new OPC board member who now serves as program officer with the Ford Foundation, will moderate a panel of writers, journalists and documentary filmmakers who have focused on the region.

George de Lama, *Chicago Tribune* managing editor for news and a new OPC board member, opened two Tribune bureaus in Latin America and played a leading role in opening the Havana bureau, the first American newspaper office in Cuba in 35 years. He covered the conflicts in Central America, the U.S. invasion of Grenada, the Falkland Islands War and the drug wars in Peru and Colombia while based



Calvin Sims



George de Lama

in Buenos Aires.

Peter Kinoy is one of the team members, along with Pamela Yates and Paco de Onis, who made the documentary *State of Fear*, a chilling recounting of the decades that Peruvians suffered under threat from the terrorist group Sendero Luminoso and then from their own government's counter-terrorism repression as told through the eyes and ears of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

State of Fear, which won the OPC's 2006 Robert Spiers Benjamin award, will be screened on the Sundance Channel the night before the panel discussion.

Francisco Goldman is the author of *The Art of Political Murder* [Grove Press], which one reviewer called a "searing, gripping account" of the 1998 murder of Catholic Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera two days after

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Indian Diaspora Conversation

(Continued From Page 1)

Globalization. As a Reuters correspondent he covered the fall of Saigon and was correspondent and editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

The Book Night program is jointly sponsored by the Asia Society and the OPC and will be held at the Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue at 70th Street. The date is Wednesday, November 7 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. with a reception following the conversation. The cost is \$7 for Asia Society and OPC members. For tickets call the Asia Society box office at 212-517-2742 or visit <https://tickets.asiasociety.org>.

Latin American Panel

(Continued From Page 1)

he released a landmark archdiocese-sponsored report on the atrocities of Guatemala's civil war, and the "winding, perilous investigation" that followed.

The Latin American Panel will be co-sponsored by the National Book Critics Circle and the OPC on Monday, November 12 at 6 p.m. at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street, in New York City.



Francisco Goldman



Peter Kinoy

Q&A With Student and Reporter Jeremy Gantz

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the details from government officials over a period of weeks. The Cambodian military is notoriously secretive – but once a top official confirmed the plan, everyone else talked. It was also fascinating to find the effects of a U.S. corporation in as odd a place as Cambodia's tiny navy. Chevron discovered oil in the gulf in 2005, and the Cambodian government has been seeing dollar signs ever since. I think it's important that Cambodians know what their military is doing – especially if it involves oil, the revenue from which ought to actually reach the people who need it most.

OPC: *Where would you like to be five years from now?*

GANTZ: Although I'm very fond of Southeast Asia, I'm in love with South Asia. Ideally I'd be based in Delhi but would report throughout the subcontinent on the region's rapid development. In particular, I'm drawn to India's transformation into a global power — how its ancient traditions are being altered by new political and economic circumstances. India's rise ought to matter to Americans; the world's biggest democracy deserves to be the America's closest Asian friend.

OPC: *What will it take to get you to where you want to be?*

GANTZ: Hard work – but just as much luck, I fear. Becoming established as a foreign correspondent is probably more difficult than ever today. It's not just shrinking foreign news holes at home.

I hate to admit it, but I see no compelling reason why western correspondents in Asia might not be mostly "outsourced" to well-educated English-speaking people who are actually from the region. It's already happening.

The key to succeeding in an increasingly competitive journalism environment, I think, is constant study and the ability to offer American readers a voice they can recognize as their own.

Jeremy Gantz can be reached by e-mail at jeremy_gantz@yahoo.com

New Online:

The OPC now has a microblog on the homepage and on Twitter: twitter.com/opcofamerica to provide quick updates about OPC events and journalism news items.

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Q&A With Jeremy Gantz

Jeremy Gantz is finishing a journalism masters degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. He is currently working for the Medill News Service, based in Washington D.C., covering the "War and National Security" beat. He has written stories about the national impact of the war, and the impact of the war in Iraq by reporting on Iraqis. He hopes to continue reporting in Asia soon after graduating in March 2008. OPC *Bulletin* editor Aimee Rinehart spoke with him a month ago via e-mail about his determination to have a reporting career abroad.



OPC: Tell us where are you now and why you chose that spot.

GANTZ: I live in Phnom Penh and have been working at the *Cambodia Daily*, an English-language newspaper staffed by both Cambodians and ex pats, as a reporter for the summer. I have the Overseas Press Club Foundation to thank for connecting me to this particular spot, as I was lucky enough to be offered an internship here after receiving one of the foundation's scholarships this year. I've long been a lover and student of South and Southeast Asia, so it has been a natural fit.

OPC: How did you become interested in reporting abroad?

GANTZ: Without a doubt, my interest in foreign reporting stems directly from the year I spent living in Sri Lanka while on a Fulbright. I studied how the country's public school system has created ethnic divisions and conflict, and although the topic was academic, my research methods were journalistic: I interviewed scores of teachers, students and government officials in different parts of the island, and gathered documents to create a picture of the present.

I also befriended a few journalists while there, and ended up finding their work more relevant – in late 2004 and 2005, the ceasefire was rapidly collapsing – than my research. It wasn't long after my return to the states that I decided a career abroad in journalism would be far more satisfying (and more exciting) than any academic career.

OPC: Are overseas positions "talked up" in journalism classes? Do you have friends who also report internationally?

GANTZ: I would say developing a global perspective, rather than an overseas career, is discussed more by professors in my Northwestern University graduate program. The program definitely offers international journalism experience to those who want it (through a popular "Global Journalism" program, which places students into reporting "residencies" around the world), and of course no one at the school speaks against an overseas career. But I've encountered very few students who actually plan to pursue overseas reporting as a career, rather than a short-term "experience." I can count them on one hand.

I do have one college friend who has reported from Moscow during the last few years – but he's heading back to the U.S. next month.

OPC: What did winning the OPC's scholarship do for your interest in reporting abroad?

GANTZ: More than anything else, it gave me confidence. I knew that I *wanted* to report abroad, but wasn't sure I actually could do something so daunting. I spent 10 weeks last fall backpacking through northern India in search of stories, really pushing myself into a journalist's mindset. Because my scholarship application – based on interviews I conducted in Delhi and Rajasthan – was recognized, I finally believed my desire to report abroad was more than a pipe dream.

OPC: What are the drawbacks to being an expatriate regarding the job of reporting? What are the pluses?

GANTZ: I think there are two main drawbacks, at least here in Cambodia: First, I worry constantly that cultural and language barriers lead to inaccuracies. I don't speak Khmer, and even when Cambodian colleagues have translated for me I worry that important facts and emotional nuances are lost in translation. But more serious is my occasional feeling that, as an American, I can't truly understand Cambodia – or any other Asian country.

Second, it's impossible to ignore the disconnect here between the English-language press and the general public. It's a question of impact: sure, diplomats and NGO employees and high-level government officials are reading the *Cambodia Daily*. But what about the vast majority of Cambodians who can't read English?

But of course the pluses outweigh the drawbacks. It's a privilege to be deeply exposed to a foreign culture and country, to be able to speak to both ordinary, powerless Cambodians as well as high-level government officials. To see both ends of the power spectrum in Cambodia, which finally seems to be stabilizing after decades of war, is amazing and astonishing. And on a day-to-day basis, it has been great fun to report on stories with the *Cambodia Daily*'s Khmer staff – they know the country in ways ex pat journalists probably never will.

OPC: What article have you written so far on your travels that you're the most proud of? Can you tell us a little about how that article came to be?

GANTZ: Probably an article I wrote here earlier this month, which was about the Cambodian government's plan to triple the size of its navy to provide security for the handful of companies hunting for oil in the Gulf of Thailand.

That story was particularly satisfying because I had been tipped off to the plan by an embassy's military attaché, but had to pry

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Rosenblum's Witty Anecdotes and Sobering Message

OPC EVENT RECAP

by Charles Hack

Ignorance of outside world threatens the future of the only remaining super power, Mort Rosenblum told a captivated audience at an October 10 Overseas Press Club event promoting his new book, *Escaping Plato's Cave: How America's Blindness to the Rest of the World Threatens Our Survival* [St. Martin's Press].

The eight-time Pulitzer Prize nominee peppered his stark assessment of the state of foreign correspondence with witty anecdotes, but the message was of a depressing chasm between reality and America's understanding of the world beyond its borders.

"Plato imagined prisoners in a cave who could see events outside only as firelight reflections on a wall. These shadows, cropped and distorted in size, their details blurred. They loomed suddenly and then vanished," Rosenblum said. "Twenty-three centuries later, these images appear on backlit screens with words like Sony or Dell stamped beneath them. But otherwise, Plato's simile still seems squarely on the mark. We need to get out of cave to see our world in real settings."

By agitating for something better and quietly talking to editors who "don't get it," the Overseas Press Club has a vital role in coaxing America out of its cave.

Rosenblum, who now lives in France, wrote his critique after spending nearly 40 years reporting in more than 100 countries for the AP, editing the *International Herald Tribune* for two years, and amassing 12 books to his name.

New owners and managers of many news organizations "slash their way to short term profit" closing bureaus overseas and replacing seasoned reporters with low-cost fresh hires, he said.

Caring little about the "public trust," they have all but abandoned their role of overseas watchdogs and the commitment to educate the public about the other 96 percent of humanity that "all too many of us strip down to a single pronoun: 'they'."

It is America's ignorance of the

growing gap between rich and poor, climate change, and death on a massive scale from conflicts, starvation and communicable diseases that undermines our credibility around the world.

"Our fourth estate is being dumbed down and stripped of its ability to see reality beyond our borders," Rosenblum said. "What Americans don't know is killing us."

Recent policies have led those who had once admired America for its founding principles — including a sophisticated Irish-born friend who once worked for the State Department to attract European tourists — to wonder why it has become an "evil empire."

Once told by a less experienced editor that it is too early to compare the wars in Iraq and Vietnam, Rosenblum, who covered both stands by his dispatch he prepared from Jordan that neither conflict has served the nation's long-term interests, saying that the army does not have the right skills to be a peacemaker, especially in countries that do not want a foreign power there.



Philip Revzin, St. Martin's Press editor; Charles Hanley, AP; Helen Swinton, widow of revered AP correspondent Stan Swinton; author Mort Rosenblum; AP photo editor Santiago Lyon and retired AP vice president Claude Erbsen.

Transcript Excerpts by Mort Rosenblum

Ever since I left New York in 1967 to wade into African mayhem for the Associated Press, I've looked at the OPC as guardian of the home fires for us far-flung loonies who watch the world up close. Not all our members are reporters, but we all share a basic belief: Bedrock news organizations are as crucial to democracy as elections — and are more vital to security than armed forces.

You all know better than I do what is befalling too many of these organizations as new owners and managers with no sense of public trust slash their way toward short-term profit. Too many of our watchdogs curl up in the laps of people at whom they ought to be barking their tails off.

But *Escaping Plato's Cave* is about what this means in the wider world. Our Fourth Estate is being dumbed down and stripped of its ability to see reality beyond our borders. Tonight, I've come home to the OPC with a cri de coeur after 40 years in the wilderness. What Americans don't know is killing us. I mean this quite literally.

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"You cannot re-order someone else's society at gunpoint," he said.

Twenty-first century technology is improving news gathering but the diversification of the media through the Internet has not made up for the paucity of information. All too often reports on international events are neatly repackaged for different news outlets and recycled in blogs, but come from a stringer reporting to a single wire service such as AP or Reuters.

There is no substitute for old-fashioned reporting, Rosenblum argued. To be effective, news organizations must return seasoned journalists to the field who understand what they "see and hear."



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

GLOBAL:

Sareena K. Dalla, who won this year's OPC Foundation's Theo Wilson scholarship, joined CNN's political team as a producer in New Hampshire, working as an off-air reporter and writing for CNN Websites. She's also working on a master's degree in public policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Jeremy Gantz, who won this year's H. L. Stevenson scholarship and then worked for eight weeks on the *Cambodia Daily* in Phnom Penh and is featured on page 4 in this issue's Q&A, reported to the Foundation: "I learned as much about journalism in the past two months [in Cambodia] as I did during the first six months of Medill's graduate program."

This was the first year that a Foundation scholarship winner was selected to work on the *Daily Cambodian*, an opportunity offered by the English-language paper's founder and publisher, **Bernie Krisher**, a long-time magazine correspondent in Asia.

In an e-mail to **Jane Reilly**, the Foundation's executive director, Krisher wrote, "We were very impressed with Jeremy. He was an excellent candidate. He could join our staff if he wished." Krisher said the *Daily Cambodia* will continue to accept scholarship winners as interns.

FAIRFIELD, Connecticut: With Buddhist monks protesting Myanmar's military government, Myanmar was back in the news this summer and autumn (see Yangon below). The demonstrations were "outraging" Americans, President Bush said in his September speech to the U.N. General Assembly. So permit the "People" columnist to reminisce:

When Myanmar was Burma and Yangon was Rangoon, I visited Rangoon in the late 1970s to meet with UPI's Burmese client, Burma's national news agency, which in those days received UPI as transmitted by radio Teletype. Burma was a poor country,

perhaps the poorest in Asia. The only place for foreigners to stay was the old British-built Strand Hotel. Bed sheets in the Strand were spotlessly clean, but years of use had left them with holes. The hotel's male servants wore formal suits, obviously aged, relics from the days of British rule. Visas rarely were issued to foreign correspondents, so I, like many of my colleagues, entered the country on a tourist visa, valid, as I recall, for only three or four days.

The manager of our client news agency suggested I wait until 8 p.m. to visit his office. An odd time for a business appointment! Why, I wondered. Then I learned why. His agency was located in a back alley among crumbling buildings that he hoped I would not see during the day. He was friendly and polite, pouring me a Scotch from probably the only bottle he owned. But, still friendly, he did not accept my request for a rate increase.

The UPI stringer invited me for dinner in his apartment. When I arrived, he hurried me to a balcony from which I could not see his shabby living place. After dinner, he gave me a rice bowl covered in gold foil and used in Buddhist ceremonies. I left Burma touched by its poverty, but warmed by its friendly, thoughtful people.

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee: After reporting from Israel, **Ronda Robinson** returned to Knoxville, her hometown, and explored the community's Jewish heritage.

A little more than one percent of Knoxville's 175,000 residents are Jewish, but Ronda found a lot of history behind them. In an article published in the *Jerusalem Post* in September, she wrote, "The kaleidoscope of images from my community in Knoxville includes Jews burying their Civil War dead, peddling pots and pans in the

mountains by horse and wagon, and praying on vinegar barrels. Later snapshots reveal a plucky Knoxville Jew who bought *The New York Times*." The Hebrew Benevolent Association of Knoxville became the Jewish community's first organization. "Listed as one of the group's trustees was Julius Ochs, father of **Adolph Ochs**, who would one day become the publisher of *The New York Times*," Robinson wrote. "The name of the association became Temple Beth El in 1877 [and] Julius Ochs served as rabbi... My grandfather, Max Robinson, found his way from Russia to Knoxville, of all places, in the early 1900s."

Papa Max and one of his five brothers were listed in the 1911 city directory as grocers. "In America their name changed from Robinovitz or Rabinowitz to Robinson."

In a 30-year career as a journalist, public relations professional and educator in Israel and the United States, Robinson has written for publications as varied as the *Jerusalem Post*, *Jerusalem Report*, *Progressive Architecture*, *Southern Bride*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Washingtonian*, *USA Today* and *Woman's World*.

LONDON: Al Webb, a veteran foreign correspondent, was prepped and anesthetized for spinal surgery on October 2 "when it all went wrong," he reported. His blood pressure suddenly fell dramatically and his heart slowed to one beat every three seconds. Surgery was halted before the first cut. Doctors revived Webb, and he spent six hours in recovery breathing oxygen, and stayed overnight in the orthopedic clinic before returning home. Webb said he will be examined by a cardiologist before another attempt at surgery.

Webb is a survivor *par excellence*. He wrote a detailed report on his ordeal for the UPI alumni Web site the day after he returned home. Webb was a longtime correspondent in Asia, United Nations, Europe and the Middle East for UPI, and later for *U.S. News &*

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Rhonda Robinson

(Continued From Page 5)

World Report in Beirut and Knight-Ridder Financial News in London.

MOGADISHU: Somali soldiers laid siege to Shabelle, an independent radio station, in September, firing shots through the windows that damaged equipment and wounded at least one person. Government troops earlier raided the station and detained 18 journalists. In August, two Somali journalists with HornAfrik news were shot to death.

NEW YORK: The Correspondents Fund has contributed \$5,000 to the OPC Foundation to support internship programs for winners of Foundation scholarships. The Foundation paid to send three student winners abroad this summer, one to AP's Jerusalem bureau, another to the Reuters bureau in Buenos Aires and the third to work on the *Cambodian Daily* in Phnom Penh. "We are truly launching these young people's careers by putting them on the ground and allowing them to get the kind of experience that matters," said Foundation President **Bill Holstein**, who also sits on the Correspondents Fund board. The Fund was established several years ago by the sale of the old OPC building on 41st Street.

The Emmy Awards for news and documentary reporting were presented in September. Winners for international coverage included **Lara Logan** for her report from Ramadi, Iraq on CBS Evening News; OPC member **Mike Wallace** for his interview with Iran's President Ahmadinejad on "60 Minutes;"

Brian Williams for his report on crisis in the Middle East on NBC Nightly News and OPC member **Tom Brokaw** for his report on global warming on the Discovery Channel. Their producers also won Emmys.

Ted Koppel was honored with a lifetime achievement Emmy Award for his contribution to broadcast news.



Lara Logan with

producer Jeff Newton.

Robert Capa was a Hungarian Jew. **Gerda Taro** was a Polish Jew. Both were photographers. And they were lovers who covered the Spanish Civil War together. "Mr. Capa went on to become one of the world's greatest war photographers," **Felicia R. Lee** wrote in *The New York Times*. "But Ms. Taro, seen by many as the first woman known to photograph a battle from the front lines and to die covering a war, survived in the public eye mostly for her romance with Mr. Capa."

Now 70 years after her death at age 26, the first major exhibition of her work opened in September at the International Center of Photography (1133 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd Street) and will run until January 6. Capa's work also is on exhibit. Taro's work was published in the Paris newspaper *Ce Soir* and the French magazine *Regards*. *Life* magazine reported her death and ran some of her photos.

"But after her brief career ended, a flood of photographs from World War II helped push her work off the stage," *The Times* wrote. Taro was killed when she was sideswiped by a tank after jumping onto the running board of a car transporting casualties



Gerda Taro's photo of a 1937 battlefield scene during the Spanish Civil War.



Gerda Taro and Robert Capa

during a Spanish Civil War battle. Her funeral in Paris was held on August 1, 1937, which would have been her 27th birthday.

The museum also has an online exhibition of her work, which can be viewed at www.icp.org; click on "museum," "current exhibitions," and "Gerda Taro."

charges that his writings were critical of fundamentalists and conservatives in the Iranian administration. Currently he is on trial in absentia in Iran, principally for reporting on the 2003 death in prison of Canadian photojournalist **Zahra Kazemi**, who had been arrested on charges of espionage.

Mirebrahimi is chief editor of the online magazine *Iran dar Jahan* [Iran in the World]. His appointment was made in partnership with the Committee to Protect Journalists.

PARIS: Agence France-Presse is awarding an annual traveling scholarship in memory of **Kate Webb**, who for 16 years was an AFP correspondent in several Asian nations after reporting from the Vietnam War for UPI. The scholarship will pay up to 5,000 euros to a wire service journalist to finance a reporting trip that the applicant otherwise might not be able to afford. The winning story, photographs or video will be displayed on the AFP Foundation's Web site.

The competition is open to corre-

BusinessWeek has transferred **Brian Bremner** from Hong Kong to New York, where he now is an assistant managing editor. Before Hong Kong, where he was regional news editor for several years, Bremner was the magazine's Tokyo bureau chief. *BusinessWeek's* Tokyo bureau, once staffed by four language-trained Americans, now is staffed by local hires.

Iranian journalist and blogger **Roozbeh Mirebrahimi**, who fled his nation where he is on trial in absentia, now is the first International Journalist in Residence at City University of New York's Graduate School of Journalism. In a 2004 crackdown on pro-reform bloggers, Mirebrahimi was arrested and spent two months in a jail cell slightly larger than his body. The bloggers were released after an international outcry, and he escaped from Iran after facing

spondents who work in Asia or the Pacific, excluding Australia, New Zealand and the Middle East. Applications for this year's award will close November 1. In future years, the deadline will be February 1, and the awards will be announced on March 24, Webb's birthday.

Webb died of cancer May 13 in a Sydney hospital at the age of 64. The scholarship announcement said, "She was devoted to the local staff in the bureaus where she worked and she inspired their loyalty and affection."

TAIPEI: C. C. Yao, 79, a longtime photographer for UPI and then Reuters, recovered quickly in September from prostrate surgery. Yao was a whiz at

rushing arriving correspondents through customs and immigration at Taipei international airport. With many friends in the government and at the airport, C.C. took the correspondent's passport and baggage checks, and if there was a spouse, her documents, too. Within minutes, all procedures were cleared, no questions asked.

WASHINGTON: OPC member **John Bussey**, a veteran *Wall Street Journal* editor and foreign correspondent, is the newspaper's new Washington bureau chief. He succeeds **Gerald F. Seib**, who became assistant managing editor and Washington executive editor. Bussey has been the *WSJ's* Tokyo bureau chief, editor of *The*

Journal's Asia edition, economics editor, foreign editor and deputy managing editor. In his new post, Seib will take on a "portfolio of duties that will elevate the quality and visibility of *The Journal's* Washington coverage," Managing Editor **Marcus W. Brauchli**, an OPC board member, said in a memo to his staff.



Anton Kazarin, editor-in-chief of the Russian business magazine group *Delovoy Kvartal*, is the winner of this year's Paul Klebnikov Fund Prize for Excellence in Journalism. The Fund also honored **Vitali Lipik**, a freelance science reporter in Belarus and special correspondent for the online magazine www.open.by, who has written more than 250 articles on environmental issues. Kazarin's weekly business magazines circulate in cities in the Urals, Siberia, and southern and central Russia.

The Fund was established in memory of **Paul Klebnikov**, editor of the Russian edition of *Forbes*, who was murdered in Moscow in 2004, and is administered by the International Center for Journalists. **Joyce Barnathan**, president of the Center, said in a statement, "Anton brings quality business news to Russia following in the footsteps of Paul Klebnikov, who did precisely that kind of work for *Forbes*. Vitali is on a trajectory to blaze new paths in environmental journalism in Belarus."



Eliav-Sartawi Awards for Middle East Journalism were announced in October. The awards recognized articles written by **Akiva Eldar** and published in *Ha'aretz*, an Israeli newspaper, and *The Baltimore Sun*; **Salameh Nematt**, the London-based newspaper *Al-Hayat*; **Bassam Aramin**, *The Jewish Forward*; and **Gershon Baskin**, *The Jerusalem Post*. Sponsored by Search for Common Ground, a Washington-based organization that said the "awards recognize and encourage journalism that contributes to a better understanding between people and maintaining political dialogue in the Middle East."

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YANGON, Myanmar:

Kenji Nagai, a photographer working for Japan's APF News, was fatally shot when government security forces fired automatic weapons into a crowd during September protests by thousands of Buddhist monks against Myanmar's military government. Nagai, 50, lay bleeding in a street holding his video camera before he died. The government said a stray bullet accidentally hit the journalist in the chest. The Buddhist protests were touched off when the government doubled fuel prices. Thousands of monks took to the streets in protest. Foreign diplomats said that between 100 and 200 people were killed, but the ruling junta put the death toll at 10. Local people said a number of bodies were burned in a crematorium, ensuring that the exact death toll never will be known. State media reported that 2,093 people were arrested and 692 of them released.

In a dispatch from Bangkok, *New York Times* correspondent **Seth Mydans**, son of the late veteran *Life* magazine photojournalist **Carl Mydans**, said the two largest and most established institutions in Myanmar, formerly named Burma, are "the monkhood and the military, both about 400,000 strong, both made up of young men, mostly from the poorer classes who could well be brothers." *Time's* Bangkok correspondent **Hannah Beech**, daughter of the late longtime *Chicago Daily News* Asia correspondent **Keyes Beech**, wrote, "Some of the monks turned their begging bowls upside down, a gesture that traditionally denotes excommunication but now also carries a political message: they want the junta out." Most foreign correspondents are barred from Myanmar, which has been ruled by a military junta for 19 years. News reports published and broadcast outside the country were based on broadcasts and video transmissions from Yangon and telephone calls to embassies in Myanmar. Two years ago, the junta moved the capital from Yangon to Naypyidaw, then a newly-built city high in a jungle mountain and with no cell phone service or international flight connections.

The **OPC Freedom of the Press Committee** wrote a letter to the government on October 10 stating its alarm over the treatment of journalists and its efforts to prevent reports, photos and video footage of Myanmar's troops' brutality from reaching the world audience.



Kenji Nagai, a photographer for Japan's APF News, lies dying in the street while still holding his camera.

(Continued From Page 7)

Three American journalists are reporting this autumn on neglected topics in widely-separated nations on fellowships awarded by the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

The reporters and the countries where they are working are **Eliza Barclay**, freelance journalist based in Mexico City, in Tanzania; **Libby Casey**, KUAC-FM public radio, Fairbanks, Alaska, in Iceland; and **Krista Kapralos**, *The Herald*, Everett, Washington, in Venezuela.

Editors from 12 overseas newsrooms worked on publications in the United States during October in a program conducted by the International Center for Journalists. The journalism exchange fellows were selected from about 300 applicants in 77 countries.

They worked at the *Los Angeles Times*, *Houston Chronicle*, *The Detroit News*, *Science* magazine and other publications. After one week in Washington, they spent three weeks at U.S. media organizations comparable to their home newsrooms.

The selected editors were **Malkhaz Gagua** of *Resonance*, Georgia; **Christopher Gumunyu**, *The Financial Gazette*, Zimbabwe; **Evangeline Hernández**, *El Universal*, Mexico; **Barbara Kaija**, *The New Vision*, Uganda; **Anton Kazarin**, *Delovoy Kvartal*, Russia; **Vitali Lipik**, www.open.by, Belarus; **Ramy Mansour**, *Al Watan*, Syria; **Basil Okoor**, *Ammonnews*, Jordan; **Mark Zablon Oloo**, *Kenya Times Newspapers*, Kenya; **Ana Marie Pamintuan**, *The Philippine Star*, Philippines; **Joseph Raj**, *The Star*, Malaysia; and **Cheryl Springer**, *Stabroek News*, Guyana.

WEDDINGS

Joy de Menil, 35, a senior editor of *The Atlantic Monthly* in Washington, D.C., and **Laird Reed**, 37, managing director of Détente Group, a merchant bank in McLean, Virginia, were married October 6 at St. John's Episcopal Church on Fishers Island, New York.

de Menil is a trustee of the

Turquoise Mountain Foundation, a reconstruction and preservation organization in Kabul, Afghanistan, and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She was a senior editor of Heinemann Publishers, a book publisher, in London until 2005.



Terri Anne Thompson, 55, a board member of the OPC Foundation and director of the Knight-Bagehot Fellowship Program in Economics and Business Journalism, and the Rev. **Ralph Paul Acerno**, 60, a minister in the Reformed Church in America, were married October 5 at the Christian Community Church in River Head, New Jersey, where the bridegroom is pastor. Until 1992, Thompson worked in the New York bureau of *U.S. News & World Report*.



PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Her father, **Pierre Boulat**, was a *Life* magazine photographer. Her mother, **Annie Boulat**, founded the Cosmos photo agency in France. Born in Paris, their daughter, **Alexandra Boulat**, started her career in news photography as her father's assistant. She went on to win awards for her photos of conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and in Iraq before and during the current war, and the fall of the Taliban. Occasionally she ranged far from war, covering, for example, an Yves Saint Laurent fashion show. Her work appeared in many publications including the *National Geographic*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *Paris-Match*. In 2001, Alexandra helped found the VII Photo Agency, which specializes in documenting environmental, social and political conflicts. She published two books, *Paris* and *Éclats de Guerre*, both in 2002.

Alexandra Boulat, 45, died in Paris October 5 after suffering a brain aneurysm in June and falling into a coma.

André Emmerich, 82, a correspondent in Paris before he became an art dealer in New York City, died Sept. 25 in his Manhattan home after suffering a stroke earlier that month. During 10 years in Paris after World War II, he was a writer and editor for the magazines *Réalités* and *Connaissance des Arts*, the Paris edition of *The New York Herald Tribune* and *Time-Life International*. He then returned to New York and devoted himself to representing artists. Emmerich was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1924. Fearing the rise of anti-Semitism, his parents took him and his sister to Amsterdam when he was 7 and to the United States in 1940 when he was 15.

James F. Clarity, 75, who reported from Russia, Paris, Vietnam and the Middle East for *The New York Times*, died of a heart attack Sept. 20 at his Long Branch, New Jersey, home. His first foreign assignment was as the last Paris correspondent for *The Herald Tribune* before it folded in 1966.

He joined *The Times* in 1967, covering politics in the U.S., and remained with the paper until retiring. After two years in the Moscow bureau, he covered the Vietnam War in 1973, and a year later became Tehran bureau chief.

Later based in Paris, he handled assignments in Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon. He returned to the United States in 1977 and took on a series of assignments: Philadelphia bureau chief, assistant metropolitan editor and assistant foreign editor.

After retiring in 1991, he continued part-time reporting from Ireland.

In a report from Beirut, Clarity gave credit to his driver, Mohammed Kasrawi, "who knew on a particular day which streets were safe to cross, which faction controlled which block, where the retaliatory and often murderous kidnapping of civilians was likely to take place."

Al Chang saw the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor when he was a 19-year-old

(Continued on Page 9)

People Remembered

(Continued From Page 8)

dockworker in Honolulu and his family labored on a sugar plantation. During World War II, he served as a U.S. Army combat photographer in the Pacific and photographed Japan's 1945 surrender aboard the battleship the USS Missouri in Tokyo bay. In the Korean War, Chang was an Army photographer with the 5th Regimental Combat Team, com-



This photo taken by Al Chang became an enduring image of the Korean War.

posed mostly of soldiers from Hawaii. His photo of a soldier, distraught over the killing of a comrade and weeping in the arms of another soldier was published in many newspapers, magazines and books, and became one of the enduring images of the Korean War. After working for the *National Geographic*, he returned to the Army and joined *Pacific Stars & Stripes* to report from the Vietnam War.

He received a Purple Heart after a Viet Cong bullet hit his left eye while he was accompanying a U.S. paratroop operation. He retired from the Army as a master sergeant in the mid-1960s, and then worked several years for the AP.

In poor health since the mid-1990s after two strokes and triple by-pass surgery, he recently was diagnosed with leukemia. Al Chang, 85, died September 30 at a veterans care center in Honolulu.



Thomas E. Bryan, 71, who reported from remote islands in the Pacific Ocean, died Aug. 30 of a lung ailment in an Arlington, Virginia hospital. After working in Washington, D.C., Bryan moved to Micronesia in 1981

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James W. Michaels, *Forbes* Magazine Editor

by Al Kaff

James W. Michaels, who transformed business journalism during 37 years as editor of *Forbes* magazine, started his news career as a \$35-a-week foreign correspondent for United Press. During World War II, he joined the American Field Service and served as an ambulance driver attached to the British Army in Burma.

After the war, he landed a job with UP in India. With the wire service from 1945 to 1950 he covered Indian independence and the bloody religious fighting that followed. He traveled on horseback to Kashmir to become the first foreign reporter to cover fighting in that remote region. He scored a world beat on the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

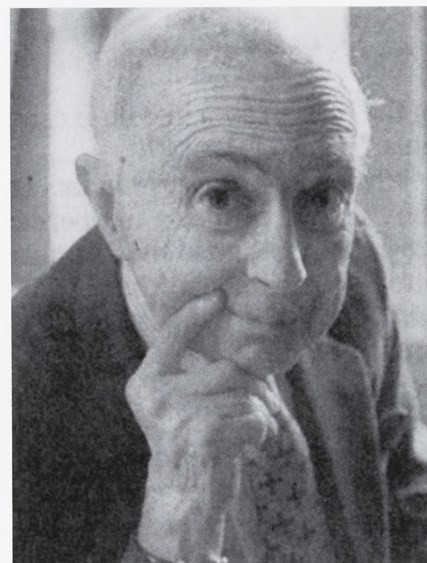
After working for *The Buffalo News*, Michaels joined *Forbes* as a reporter in 1954 and became the magazine's editor in 1961 when, *The New York Times* wrote, "American journalism remained a polite, dry affair, and corporate spin was reported without much skepticism. Anticipating the direction much of the media would turn in the decades that followed, he made *Forbes* opinionated, interpretive and often indecorous."

Michaels personally edited much of what the magazine published, making articles shorter and more blunt, with a more clearly stated point of view. OPC member **Norman Pearlstine**, who worked at *Forbes* before becoming managing editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, called Michaels "the smartest editor I ever worked for."

Former *Forbes* writer **Richard Behar** commented, "It was always said the Michaels could edit the Lord's prayer down to six words and nobody would miss anything."

Michaels reinvented the magazine by adding sections on law, taxes, computers, medicine, science and leisure. When he joined *Forbes* in 1954, its circulation was 130,000. When he stepped down as editor in 1999, circulation was 785,000.

Michaels called himself a working journalist who could skip the dinner party circuit in order to put every article through his typewriter, usually



Gretchen Morgenson, who worked for Michaels before she joined *The New York Times*, quoted from a collection of comments that Michaels wrote on reporters' copy including:

- This is exactly the sort of lazy writer jargon that will put us out of business. Please use the rich resources of the English language.
- A good story turned into oatmeal by bad organization.
- This is the kind of sentence that drives readers to stop reading.

Banned word and phrases Michaels considered overused included:

- fast track
- game plan
- bottom line
- superstar
- upscale

making it shorter.

He ignored popular culture, once sitting next to Howard Cosell on an airplane and not recognizing him. Always seeking new challenges, Michaels took up scuba diving when he was 73. He won numerous journalism honors including a Gerald Loeb Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994.

James Walker Michaels, 86, died of pneumonia in his New York City home October 2.

Rosenblum Transcript

(Continued From Page 4)

To prosper in today's world, let alone to command leadership, we need to understand the other 96 percent of humanity, a collective of 6.5 billion people who so many of us lump into a single pronoun. Why do "they" hate us? In fact, most of "them" don't. But many think we have become so self-obsessed and ignorant about a world we dominate that they have simply lost respect. One Irish friend in France, a worldly and cultured gentleman who once revered America, told me with head-shaking sadness: "You have become the evil empire."

But no one else can fill America's role. Europe is far too divided for grand geopolitics. China is focused on China. As we head into very scary waters, no great power holds a moral compass. Tension between the rich and the desperate is dangerously volatile. By the time we realize the extent of climate change, it may be too late to act.

After a Holocaust in Europe took 10 million lives, we swore, Never Again. But 10 million human lives are lost every 100 days to starvation, preventable disease, or conflicts that could be stopped. In 2004, Congress declared genocide in Darfur. Yet three years later, the perpetrators now overrun the only international force we can come up with: essentially unarmed African troops.

Twenty-first century communications are a wondrous thing. Anyone can feel part of any story and talk back to the "news." Germany invades Poland: What's your opinion? But in the end it doesn't matter if a dispatch is flashed by electrons or carried in Scoop's cleft sticks or chipped onto a stone tablet. What counts is that message.

And yet despite the technology miracles that give us such potential, Americans have never been less aware — at the essential levels which matter — of realities abroad.

Google boasts of 4,500 news sources. But when a story breaks in Kashmir, say, that means 4,498 all embroider the few details relayed by local stringers for Reuter and AP.

That's why I borrowed a classic metaphor for my book title. Plato imagined prisoners in a cave who could see events outside only as firelight reflections

on a wall. These shadows, cropped by the cave's opening, were distorted in size, their details blurred. They loomed suddenly and then vanished. Twenty-three centuries later, these images appear on backlit screens with words like Sony or Dell stamped beneath them. Otherwise, Plato's simile still seems squarely on the mark.

We need to get out of our cave to see the world in its real settings, with people who reason in different ways according to different values. But we don't.

Too often, "covering news" means fitting odd facts and home truths into tidy packages to keep Websites fresh. What gets lost are the broad contexts and telling details that few of today's correspondents have the time and space, if the experience, to report.

When Washington war drums rumbled in early 2003, and I hurried to Jordan to get in place for Iraq, Vietnam was much on my mind.

This brings me not only to the conclusion but also to an important truth-in-packaging statement. Having been bounced out of AP after nearly 40 years, I am a tainted source. Living in France, I'm not wild about anything that might smack of sour grapes. But my departure was part of a massive AP bloodletting that has fundamentally changed how our most bedrock of news agencies covers the world, and I'm a firsthand witness of the inner workings.

If one defines AP as the people within it who struggle uphill against all odds, as they have for 160 years, it is one hell of an institution worthy of great respect. If one takes into account that among the worst obstacles they now face are their own bosses, who pile on busy work, replace seasoned reporters with untrained low-cost hires, and freeze travel at a time the world desperately needs witnesses to news, the assessment is different.

On a larger plane, AP reflects the will of publishers and broadcasters that own it. Increasingly, "news" is "content,"

Styrofoam bubble wrap to pad the income-producing display ads and commercials. And, increasingly, people who think this is lamentable excoriate the "media" as if it were some monolith in which a Geraldo Rivera was interchangeable with a Nick Kristof.

We at the OPC know better. Our membership sees serious worldwide consequences of America's growing blindness. At the same time, we all suffer from stupid blanket condemnations of "the media" by people who don't get it. With all that is going bad, much is better than ever, with courageous reporters and wise editors who use tools we old guys never dreamt might exist.

Would anyone disagree that it is time to stop lamenting about the status quo and start doing something?

We know why and how America suffers when it flies blind.

It does not matter how smart writers might be, how good a table they might have waiting at lunch, how many hits light up their blogs, or how effective they might be when actually on the road. If they are sitting at some desk in Washington, or New York, or Grinder Switch, Montana, they might be foreign news analysts. But they are not reporting; that takes being there, wherever that happens to be and however hard it might be to get there.

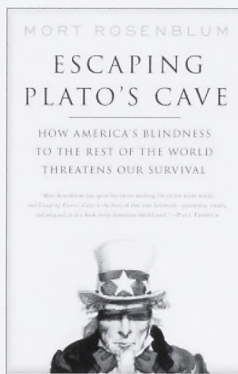
And these days, when we need them desperately — more than we ever could have imagined — we have fewer and fewer of these reporters.

We can't worry about what you can't change. We have to turn this around: You can't change what you don't worry about.

And this is where we come in. News professionals have got to stand up and say clearly not only what is going wrong but also why it matters so much. We need to help people recognize and support what is good in "the media" — and shun what is bad.

Online:

Mort Rosenblum's transcript can be found in its entirety on the Web at www.opcofamerica.org



New Books:

(Continued From Page 12)

family man, who loved nothing more than to canoe with his kids and listen to jazz with his friends in the Hamptons." OPC member **Tom Brokaw**, Peter's NBC News competitor, wrote one of the recollections of Jennings: "He had insecurities. We all have them. I had them; [OPC member] **Dan Rather** had them. I thought there were two essential elements to being an anchorman. You had to have bravado; you had to be willing to go where the big story was and think you could get it on the air. And I think the other element was fear – that you wouldn't get the job done or you were not adequate to it." **Lynn Sherr** of ABC News wrote the introduction.

ASIA

"INDIA'S SLOW-BUT-STEADY approach contrasts with China's rocket-like rise...

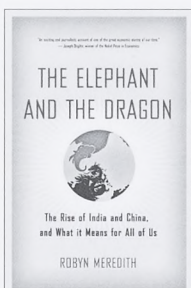
India is like an elephant, trudging slowly but surely into the future. China is flying along, fast as a dragon." That's how **Robyn Meredith** describes the economic development

of those two nations. Based in Hong Kong and a senior editor of *Forbes*, Meredith is the author of *The Elephant and the Dragon* [New York: Norton].

China manufactures 75 percent of the world's toys and exports one out of every three pairs of shoes in the world, \$9 billion in autoparts and \$180 billion worth of computers, cell phones, CD players and other electronic devices.

"China now exports in a single day more than it sold abroad during the entire year 1978," OPC member **Vernon Ram** wrote in reporting Meredith's luncheon address this summer at the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club.

With its English-speaking population and low labor costs, India has benefited hugely from the outsourcing of American jobs. By 2008, Meredith said, U.S. companies will have moved 2.3 million service-industry jobs overseas, the lion's share of them to India.



A LITTLE KNOWN WORLD LEADER

is examined in *Chinese Politics in the Hu Jintao Era: New Leaders, New Challenges* (Armonk, New York: M. E. Sharpe) by **Willy Wo-Lap Lam**. A review in *The Correspondent*, monthly magazine of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong, commented, "Chinese president Hu Jintao is one of the most powerful world leaders. He is also one of the most mysterious and least known. Willy Lam's new book fills the gap."

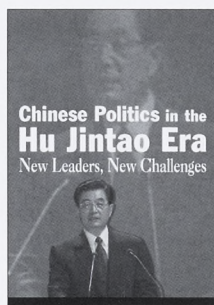
Lam describes an incident when Hu was China's boss in Tibet as an example of his Machiavellian talents. Anti-Beijing demonstrations broke out in Lhasa in 1989, and the police chief telephoned Hu several times asking if he should use force to disperse the mob. Each time, Hu replied, "Don't act yet – wait for my instructions."

Finally, Hu ordered his telephone unplugged so the police chief could not get through, and the chief then had no choice but to order his men to shoot to kill if necessary to chase away the rioters. The police quickly suppressed the outgunned protestors. Hu reported to Beijing that the situation had come under control.

"The credit for this successful restoration of order would of course go to Hu," Lam wrote. A former analysis on China for Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post*, *Asiaweek* and CNN, Lam now is teaching at Akita International University in Japan.

A BOOK THAT DEALS WITH

American, European and Asian correspondents in Japan recently has been translated into Japanese in a limited edition. The original book *Foreign Correspondents in Japan: Reporting a Half Century of Upheavals, from 1945 to the Present* [Rutland, Vermont and Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle, 1998] was written by and about members of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. **Atsushi Sato**, a retired Japanese journalist, proposed to the Club that the book be translated into Japanese.

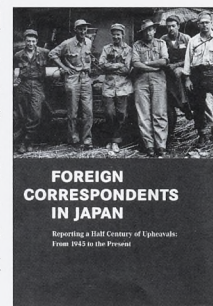


The 2,000 copies were restricted for distribution only to members of Jichisushin (Media Association Dealing With Contemporary Topics), a Japanese organization.

OPC members who contributed to the original book or are mentioned in it include **Jim Colligan**, **Bob Gibson**, **Max Desfor**, **Walter Cronkite**, **Al Cullison**, **Irv Chapman**, **Pat Killen**, **Don Kirk**, **Bradley Martin**, **Takashi Oka**, **John Rich**, **Don Shannon**, **Al Kaff** and, also, **Bernie Krisher**, publisher of the *Cambodian Daily*, where one OPC Foundation scholarship winner is selected to work each summer.

The book mentions the Overseas Press Club of America. Nabuko (Carol) Kigitsu, a telephone operator in the Foreign Correspondents Club in the 1950s while attending college, tipped off Kaff this summer about the Japanese translation that had not been widely publicized by the Club.

— by **Al Kaff**



People Remembered:

(Continued From Page 9)

and established the islands' first newspaper, the *National Union*, while serving as press secretary for the president of the Federated States of Micronesia.

He moved to Guam around 1987 and worked as chief copy editor of the *Pacific Daily News* and became managing editor of the *Guam Tribune*. He also taught journalism at colleges in Micronesia and Guam.

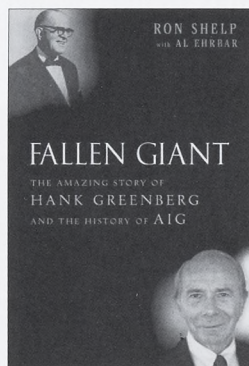
Bryan started his career on the *El Paso Times* in Texas before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1969 to report for the *Dallas Morning News* and *El Nueva Dia* of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

He then spent 10 years in UPI's Washington bureau before going to Micronesia. After his Pacific adventures, he returned to Washington in 1990 and worked for various newsletters before retiring last year.

New Books

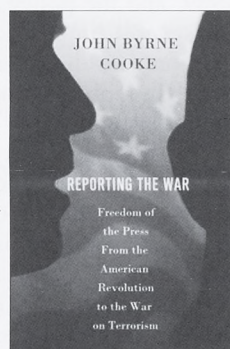
GLOBAL

OVER THE PAST 87 YEARS, American International Group (AIG) grew from a modest insurance company into the world's largest insurer. Cornelius Vander Starr, who founded the company in Shanghai, led the company for 50 years then turned over AIG's management to Maurice (Hank) Greenberg, who developed the company into one of the world's most profitable and powerful financial services companies. But Greenberg was forced to resign as chairman and CEO in 2005 in the face of an investigation into the company's accounting practices by New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. OPC member **Ron Shelp**, who worked alongside Greenberg for more than a decade, writes about AIG's history and the trouble that Greenberg and the



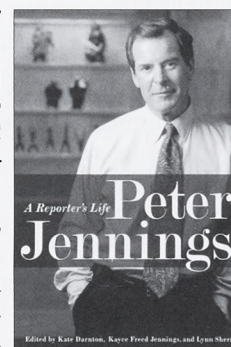
company faced in *Fallen Giant: The Amazing Story of Hank Greenberg and the History of AIG* [New York: John Wiley]. The book is written with **Al Ehrbar**, formerly a writer and editor at *Fortune* and chief economic writer for *The Wall Street Journal*. The publisher notes that AIG "was a swashbuckling, entrepreneurial company headquartered in Shanghai during a time more reminiscent of Terry and the Pirates than staid Wall Street.... [Shelp] provides insight into a China that disappeared from the radar for years, but may be returning with an even greater siren call to the world's business community."

DURING WARTIME "the press is called on to rally patriotic fervor," **John Byrne Cooke** writes in the introduction to *Reporting the War: Freedom of the Press From the American Revolution to the War on Terrorism* [New York: Palgrave Macmillan]. "It [the press] is expected to be the voice of the government and the voice of the people – the voice of the country at war. If instead it challenges the government, if it questions the rationale for war, it provokes the government's impulse, always strong in times of crisis, to



repress liberties in the name of security." In separate chapters, Cooke writes about the relationship between the press and the U.S. government during the American Revolution, the Mexican War, the U.S. Civil War, the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm in Iraq, Afghanistan, the current Iraq War and the war on terrorism. The author, son of the late British journalist **Alistair Cooke**, has written several historical novels. He lives in Jackson, Wyoming.

MEMORIES OF FRIENDS, FAMILY, competitors, colleagues and interview subjects are gathered in *Peter Jennings: A Reporter's Life* [New York: Public Affairs] to explain who the late ABC News anchor really was. "Peter Jennings was a celebrity, of course – a dashing handsome and elegant man, famous for his ability to charm women and world leaders alike," the publisher wrote, "but in these pages he is remembered as a loyal friend and a devoted



(Continued on Page 11)

Coming Up...

Images of India in Diaspora
Wednesday, November 7
6:30 to 8 p.m.
at the Asia Society

Panel on Latin America
Moderated by Calvin Sims
Monday, November 12
6 p.m.
at Club Quarters

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA